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formation Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Press Releases — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

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LIST OF KEY NAL PERSONNEL AND SERVICES

NAL ORGANIZATION	Contact	Area Code 301
Director	Joseph Howard	344-4248
Assistant Director for Policy and Planning	Maria Pisa	344-3780
Public Affairs Specialist	Brian Norris	344-3778
Special Services & Communications	Joseph Swab	344-3778
Administrative Manager	Marlene Taylor	344-1570
Budget Officer	Paul Bennett	344-1570
Facilities Manager	Clarence Keen	344-3843
Associate Director for Automation	Pamela Andre	344-3813
Assistant to Assoc. Dir., Automation	Richard Thompson	344-1875
Database Administration Branch	Gary McCone	344-3813
Current Awareness Literature Service	Anita Speight	344-3859
OCLC Coordinator	David Goldberg	344-3813
Text Digitizing	Judi Zidar	344-3853
Library Automation Branch	Bill Feidt	344-3813
ISIS Coordinator	Roberta Rand	344-3813
Associate Director for Public Services	Keith Russell	344-3834
Assistant to Assoc. Dir., Public Services	Jerry Rafats, Acting	344-3834
ARS Field Libraries	Peggy Beavers	344-3834
Document Delivery Services Branch	Carol Ditzler	344-3503
Circulation Section (& Interlibrary Loan)	Barbara Buchanan	344-3503
INFORMATION & Circulation Desk	NAL Staff	344-3755
Loan Renewals	NAL Staff	344-3798
Stack Passes	NAL Staff	344-3755
NTIS - ILL Billing	Debbie Norsworthy	344-3503
Regional Document Delivery System	Carol Ditzler	344-3503
Interlibrary Borrowing Section	Michael Thompson	344-3715
Translations Program	Michael Thompson	344-1639
Search Section	Julie Mangin	344-3717
Information Centers Branch	Robyn Frank	344-3719
Agricultural Trade & Marketing Inf. Ctr	Mary Lassanyi	344-3704
Alternative Farming Systems Info. Ctr	Jayne MacLean	344-3704
Animal Welfare Information Center	Jean Larson	344-3212
Aquaculture Information Center	Debbie Hanfman	344-3704
Food and Nutrition Information Center	Sandy Facinoli	344-3719
Rural Information Center	Patricia John	344-4372
Youth Development Information Center	John Kane	344-3719

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NAL ORGANIZATION	Contact	Area Code 301
Reference & User Services Branch	Leslie Kulp	344-3875
Coordinator of Information Programs	Leslie Kulp, Acting	344-3875
Reference Section	John Forbes	344-1204
Reference Desk	Librarian on Duty	344-4479
Grain Dust Project	Sheldon Cheney	344-1204
Nursery & Seed Trade Catalogs	Henry Gilbert	344-3876
Periodicals Reading Room	Patricia Krug	344-1204
Russian Wheat Aphids Project	Wayne Olson	344-1204
D. C. Reference Center	Janet Wright	(202) 447-3434
D. C. Reference Desk	Librarian on Duty	(202) 447-3434
Arboretum Library	Robert Anderson	344-2062
Educational Programs Section	Susan Fugate	344-3779
Exhibits Planning & Scheduling	Susan Fugate	344-3779
AGRICOLA Training Registration	Kate Baker	344-4073
Orientation & Tours	Susan Fugate	344-3779
Technology & Software Demonstration Centers	Paul Hosman	344-4114
Biotechnology Information Center	Robert Warmbrodt	344-3340
Global Change Initiative	Janet Wright, Acting	(202) 447-3434
Plant Genome Data and Info. Center	Susan McCarthy	344-3875
Preservation and Access Program	Robert Butler	344-3875
Special Collections Program	Alan Fusonie	344-3876
Special Collections Reading Room	NAL Staff	344-3876
Technology Transfer Information Center	Kathleen Hayes	344-3875
Water Quality Information Center	Janice Kemp	344-4077
Associate Director for Technical Services	Sarah Thomas	344-0018
Systems Librarian, TSD	Claudia Weston	344-0018
Acquisitions & Serials Branch	Caroline Early	344-3806
Collection Development	Caroline Early	344-3806
Exchange and Gift	Rae DuBois	344-1210
GPO Depository	Ruth Wertman	344-4021
Monographs and Fiscal	Ellen Pletsch	344-3999
Serials and Binding	Win Gelenter	344-8573
Cataloging Branch	Idalia Acosta	344-3728
CONSER Coordinator	Kathleen Dougherty	344-5046
NACO Coordinator	Donna Collins	344-3730
Data Control	Carolyn Thurman	344-5054
Indexing Branch	Shirley Edwards	344-3829
Thesaurus Coordinator	Martha Hood	344-3829

OTHER SERVICES	Contact	Area Code 301
FAX (All NAL except Document Delivery)		344-5472
FAX (Document Delivery only)		344-3675
ALF [NAL's Electronic Bulletin Board]	344-8510, 344-8511, 344-5496,	344-5497
ALF Systems Operator (voice)	Karl Schneider	344-2113

Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL/NC State Move Ahead in Designing Expanded Computer-Based Document Delivery System

Beltsville, MD — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) and North Carolina State University (NCSU) have taken yet another step toward designing an electronic system that may revolutionize the way information is made available throughout the world.

NAL and NCSU Libraries and the NCSU Computing Center are researching techniques for electronically transmitting, receiving and displaying, in minutes, the text and graphics of agricultural materials to remote sites throughout the United States over the National Science Foundation's INTERNET satellite network. INTERNET connects land-grant universities cooperating with NAL in this project.

Project managers said that the digital images transmitted over INTERNET have been "markedly superior to facsimile transmissions."

"This is the third step of a project we began in 1987 to test methods for capturing and delivering text and graphics from agricultural materials on CD-ROMs (compact discs-read only memory)," said Joe Howard, NAL Director. "It's called the 'National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project,' and through it we hope to improve our service to the agricultural research community."

In this phase of the project, the interlibrary loan departments of participating institutions are linked by networked workstations. A library seeking documents will make a loan request by electronic mail to a library known to have the needed information. The lending library will electronically scan the material and transmit the file via INTERNET to the requesting library. The requesting library can then deliver images of the document electronically to a researcher's computer, place them on diskette, or print them.

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Howard explained that the first step of NATDP involved testing various software packages for scanning and converting the text of books into "machine-readable form," a form that is accessible by computer. This phase also involved producing and distributing for evaluation three experimental CD-ROMs.

The second step was scanning, digitizing and cataloging a major collection of information and making it available on CD-ROMs for use and evaluation by land-grant universities. For this purpose, NAL used a collection of materials on acid rain compiled by the Canadian government. The collection is comprised of over 1,000 documents numbering some 11,000 pages. NAL put the information on two five-inch CD-ROMs and made it available to participating universities and other interested organizations.

Universities taking part in the image transmission project are Clemson, Iowa State, Michigan State, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical, Ohio State, Penn State, Utah State, VPI, Washington State and the Universities of Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland and Minnesota. NCSU has requested additional funds for the project from the U.S. Department of Education which would allow six more universities to join in the study.

According to Howard, the image transmission phase of the project will evaluate the use of different formats for scanned-page images, the use of various computers for page-image display and manipulation, the use of INTERNET for delivering page images, and the administrative and physical arrangements necessary for soliciting and responding to requests electronically.

Howard said that to avoid possible copyright infringements during this phase of the project, only government-produced documents, copyright-free publications or materials available under the "fair use" provision of copyright laws will be used.

"As librarians, we are very sensitive to the issue of copyright infringement and we will not be building archival files of image materials during this pilot project. However, the copyright issue will have to be addressed before any large-scale implementation of an image transmission system could be considered," Howard said.

After several months of tests, NAL and NCSU will evaluate the system's ease of use and accessibility to the end user, the demand for and cost effectiveness of transmitting materials in this manner and the copyright issues. NAL and

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NCSU will then decide whether further study is warranted or whether the image transmission system should be established permanently.

A new capability of this system compared to other computer transmission networks is that it allows communications between previously non-compatible computer systems, in this instance between Apple and IBM. The project also may have an international component next year. Project managers are seeking to arrange to transmit materials to organizations in Germany and Ecuador.

Apple Computers, Inc. has provided equipment assistance to NAL and NCSU for this project.

The National Agricultural Library is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

- Wayne Olsen, a librarian with the References User Services Branch, who is a volunteer reference librarian at the Andrews Air Force Base Library.
- Verna Shen, a library technician with the Cataloging Branch, who has worked in volunteer activities to improve relations between the United States and China (her native country), including initiating, sponsoring, and organizing exhibits on "Agriculture in China" and serving as host/guide to visitors from China, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand.
- Sarah Thomas, Associate Director for Technical Services, who has assisted in fund raising for the American Cancer Society and her community's day care center, helps at her children's elementary school, is active in fundraising for Smith College (her alma mater), works with the PKU (phenylketonuria) Parents of Maryland and is a registered bone marrow donor.

"We at NAL are proud of our coworkers who have been honored by President Bush for their volunteer service," said Joe Howard, NAL Director. "These people and the many others at NAL who volunteer their time and skills to improve others' lives are a credit to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the nation."

The Daily Points of Light program seeks to recognize those Americans who spend a significant portion of their free time to successfully "combat drug abuse, illiteracy, inadequate education, environmental decay, homelessness, hunger, AIDS, and other critical ills."

The program states that "by reclaiming a drug-plagued, crime-ridden neighborhood, tutoring those who are illiterate, mentoring a troubled young person, befriending a lonely senior citizen, providing housing to the homeless, or protecting our environment, Americans have enriched their communities and, in doing so, have brought meaning and fulfillment to their own lives."

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United States
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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

Agricultural Reference Library on CD-ROM Available

Beltsville, MD — An agricultural reference library on a 5-inch compact disc-read only memory (CD-ROM), developed with assistance from the National Agricultural Library (NAL), is now available from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University for \$99 for non-profit groups and \$199 for other groups and individuals.

Containing 75 major collections and handbooks representing 15,000 documents that equal 50,000 pages of information, the disc is called "The National CD-ROM Sampler: An Extension Reference Library." Information contained on the disc is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), NAL, land-grant universities, and the USDA's Extension Service.

"The initial pilot disc has been so valuable to USDA people in the field that we thought we'd make an updated version available through Virginia Tech at a minimal cost to other organizations," said Pam Andre, NAL Associate Director for Automation, who managed the project.

It was expected that the original disc would assist Extension Service agents in responding to the thousands of questions they receive each year from farmers and others in rural areas. That expectation was met, Andre said.

The USDA Extension Service has 16,000 workers at over 3,000 locations nationwide to handle the volume of questions. The sampler allows extension agents to quickly and easily answer frequently asked questions by punching up the desired information on a computer screen.

The disc was developed jointly by NAL, the Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension Services of Virginia and Minnesota. Copies of the prototype disc were sent to 115 extension service sites in March 1990 for testing and evaluation.

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"The disc performed very well," NAL's Andre said. "It was given high praise and many extension agents are now using it as a regular reference source."

In addition to the thousands of pages of information, the disc contains a full-text and image retrieval software, called re:Search, for quick and easy document search and retrieval and an on-line re:Search instruction manual, a "hints" section and help messages.

According to Andre, a particularly attractive feature of the disc is the *Who's Who in Great Plains Songbirds* collection, which includes not only full-color graphics of 20 birds with on-screen summaries but also the birds' calls and songs. To use this feature an audio amplifier must be attached to the CD-ROM player.

To take maximum advantage of the disc's graphics, audio, printouts and text search and retrieval speed, Andre recommended a CD-ROM player attached to a 386 computer, an EGA monitor, audio amplifier and speakers, and HP laserjet or deskjet printer. Basic hardware needed to run the disc and access only the text information are a CD-ROM player attached to an XT-class computer with hard drive and monochrome monitor.

The disc can be ordered from:

Interactive Design and Development
Virginia Tech
Plaza I, Building D
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0524

Money orders, checks and purchase orders should be made to "Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties."

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris
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NAL Computer System Lists Nationwide Youth Information

Beltsville, MD — For any person planning a program to help young people, a call to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, Maryland, might be a good place to start.

A computerized service listing hundreds of sources of information on youth development programs and on research and knowledge about America's youth is available from NAL free of charge. The service is a program of the Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which provides NAL with the resources to maintain the database.

Called the 4-H Professional Research and Knowledge Base (4HPRK), the database is part of NAL's Youth Development Information Center (YDIC). YDIC is supported by the Extension Service's 4-H program and NAL.

"The service we are developing offers one-stop shopping for those interested in youth development," said YDIC Coordinator John Kane. "We intend that this will be a complete listing of youth development programs, research, and knowledge."

4HPRK identifies and specifies articles, studies, audio-visuals, and other materials on youth development from throughout the United States. The database includes abstracts and information on where materials can be obtained. Many of the materials are available at NAL.

Kane, a Naval Academy graduate and a Ph.D. in rural community development, said the database can help youth program coordinators from all segments of society and not just those in farming areas.

"It's not an agricultural database," Kane said. "It is concerned with the problems facing all youth today and not only with problems facing rural youth. The emphasis is on youth-at-risk. For example, we recently developed for a

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client a bibliography of information on violence among minority youths in inner city areas.”

Kane said the bibliographies produced by his center through the database are tailored to include only information related to a subject specified by a person making a request. Consequently, the person is spared hours and perhaps days of fruitless searching, he said.

The 4HPRK database service is available Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Eastern Time. YDIC can be reached by dialing (301) 344-3719 during those times. A telefax can be sent by dialing (301) 344-5472.

Kane said that 4HPRK can also be accessed through NAL’s electronic bulletin board, ALF (Agricultural Library Forum). Information on making that connection is available by contacting Kane at his office.

The Youth Development Information Center is one of more than a dozen information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to youth development, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development, technology transfer, water quality, and others.

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Brian Norris
(301) 344-3778**

National Agricultural Library Looking for Volunteers

Beltsville, MD — Ever wonder how a world-class research library works? If you have, there may be an opportunity to learn how, from the inside.

The National Agricultural Library (NAL), the largest agricultural library in the world, has a recurring need for volunteers to work in a number of interesting and fulfilling positions, according to Mary Silva, coordinator of NAL's volunteer program.

"We can use volunteers in just about all phases of library operations, from shelving books to doing research to working with CD-ROM and laser disc technology," Silva said.

With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States. It maintains a collection of over two million volumes and receives 26,000 periodicals annually. NAL also is active in developing new electronic systems for managing information and is considered a leader in this type of technology.

As part of its volunteer program, NAL provides volunteers with the training and resources needed to complete assignments. NAL staff also are available to give technical advice when questions arise.

"The staff work closely with NAL volunteers and rely on volunteer efforts in many NAL special projects," Silva said. "Volunteers, who range from college students to retired people, are an important part of NAL."

NAL attempts to match a volunteer's skills and interests with the needs of the library. In some instances, college credits can be earned by volunteers on certain NAL projects.

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People interested in the NAL volunteer program should call Silva at (301) 344-4248, or write:

Mary Silva
National Agricultural Library, Room 200
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

Applicants to NAL's volunteer program will receive consideration without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability, or any other nonmerit factor.

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Brian Norris
(301) 344-3778**

USDA Agencies Work to Improve Services to Researchers

Beltsville, MD — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will work more closely to expand information services to agricultural researchers.

“Almost daily, changes are occurring in information management technology,” said NAL Director Joe Howard. “ARS and NAL have agreed to cooperate even closer so this technology can be put to use quickly in serving the nation’s agricultural researchers.”

In a letter of understanding signed by Howard and ARS Administrator Dr. R. Dean Plowman recently, NAL agreed to “oversee development of a coordinated network of information services, programs and products for ARS researchers.” According to the two officials, NAL and ARS will develop information services that provide ARS libraries and research laboratories “access to NAL, land-grant university libraries and other information resources.”

Howard said a major goal is “to ensure that researchers have access to accurate scientific information as swiftly as possible.” That way, “discoveries in agricultural research can move ahead unabated in order to meet the ever-increasing demands for food and fiber in the world,” he added.

“We want to continue to strengthen our working relationship with ARS,” Howard said. “We will take advantage of information technologies, including electronic linkages, to expand services to federal researchers.”

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Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

1991 List of Journals in NAL Database Available

Beltsville, MD – The 1991 edition of the *List of Journals Indexed in AGRICOLA* is now available from the National Agricultural Library (NAL). AGRICOLA, which stands for AGRICultural On Line Access, is NAL's computerized bibliographic database.

Compiled by Carol Dowling and Thor Lehnert of the NAL staff, the 1991 publication updates previous editions and includes sections for titles added during 1991, titles no longer indexed, an alphabetical listing by journal title, an abbreviated title listing and a listing by subject category. The new list includes 1,997 journals currently indexed by NAL and NAL cooperators for inclusion in AGRICOLA.

The listing is an important reference tool for indexers, catalogers, reference librarians, and other users of AGRICOLA.

Journals are listed alphabetically by full title in the main section of the publication. In addition, each entry includes the abbreviated title, NAL call number, International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), place of publication, publisher's name, indexing coverage of the journal (i.e. – indexed selectively or cover-to-cover) and indicates if author abstracts are included in the AGRICOLA records.

Copies of the *List of Journals Indexed in AGRICOLA 1991* can be obtained by sending a self-addressed mailing label with the request to:

Indexing Branch, Room 011
Attn: LJ1991
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pinchot Bust Accepted by National Agricultural Library

Beltsville, MD – Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946), the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service and one of the foremost conservationists of this century, was honored recently when the Pinchot Institute for Conservation presented a life-size bust of the forestry leader to the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

The handsome bronze bust was sculpted and cast by Rudolph Wendelin, who among other acclaim was the artist for Forest Service posters and promotions featuring Smokey Bear.

In presenting the bust to NAL, Dr. William Klein, President of the Pinchot Institute, called NAL “a national treasure that not only chronicles the past of natural resources management, but also gives us the tools to see beyond the horizon into the future of conservation.”

NAL’s Carol Ditzler, representing NAL Director Joe Howard, thanked the Institute and stated that the library was honored to house the bust of “the pioneer in the science of land stewardship.”

During Pinchot’s administration of the Forest Service from 1896 to 1910, the national forests increased from 51 million acres to 175 million acres. He is credited with being the first natural-born American to receive formal instruction in forestry, studying at the National School of Waters and Forests in Nancy, France, in 1889-90. He was instrumental in the enactment of the Forest Reserve Act of 1897 that provided for the designation and protection of national forests.

Pinchot founded the School of Forestry at Yale University in 1900 and also was a founding member of the Society of American Foresters. After leaving the Forest Service, Pinchot served various conservation assignments in the state government of Pennsylvania and was elected Governor of Pennsylvania for four-year terms in 1923 and 1931.

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The Pinchot bust will be displayed, along with historic photographs of Pinchot, in the Special Collections Reading Room of NAL located on the 14th floor of the library.

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Contact: Brian Norris

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Publication on Source Codes in NAL Database Available

Beltsville, MD — The 1990 edition of the *USDA Agency Source Codes (MARC Tag 910) for Subfield "w"* is now available from the National Agricultural Library. These codes are used in both cataloging and indexing in NAL's computerized bibliographic database, AGRICOLA, which stands for *AGRICultural On Line Access*.

Compiled by a committee of NAL staff, chaired by Ellen Nollman of the Cataloging Branch, the publication issued in March 1991 updates previous unpublished versions distributed to selected users in xeroxed form. It includes an alphabetical listing of all the codes used for USDA agencies and their divisions and branches, with notes on their use. Appendixes give the cataloging and indexing policies for assigning the codes to records in the database.

The listing is another of a series of reference tools for indexers, catalogers, reference librarians, and other users of AGRICOLA or for users of products derived from the database such as bibliographies and the Library's online catalog in ISIS (Integrated System for Information Services).

Copies of the *USDA Agency Source Codes (MARC Tag 910) for Subfield "w"* can be obtained by sending a self-addressed mailing label with the request to:

Cataloging Branch, Room 110
Attn: Source Codes
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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1989 and 1990 NAL Annual Reports Available

Beltsville, MD — The National Agricultural Library has available a limited number of copies of its *Annual Report for 1989*, and its *Annual Report for 1990*.

The 28-page report for 1989 was published in December 1990 and includes selected statistics and highlights the Library's major projects and programs for the year.

The 35-page report for 1990 was published in April 1991 and updates ongoing projects and programs, and reports on initiatives for the year.

To obtain a copy of either or both reports while supplies last, send a request with a self-addressed label to:

Shirley Evans, Secretary
Public Affairs, Room 204
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

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Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Hosting First IAALD New Technology Symposium

Beltsville, MD — Plans for the first “Symposium on Advances in Information Technology,” sponsored by the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (known as IAALD), continue to take shape at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD. The symposium will be held September 16-20, 1991, at the Holiday Inn in Beltsville near NAL.

The symposium is the first in a series of IAALD symposia or workshops to be held worldwide in the next several years. It will feature in-depth lectures and demonstrations on new information technologies. Topics will include telecommunications and networking, multimedia CD-ROM development, scanning and optical character recognition, hypertext and expert system applications, and digital image transmission. There will be opportunities for hands-on use of many of the technologies, with guidance by recognized experts.

A variety of noted speakers will address the symposium. Among them and their topics are: Fred Durr, National Information Services Corporation, full text and data on CD-ROM; Patricia Harris, National Information Standards Organization, new technology and standards; William Hooten, INET, an overview of imaging technology; Eckehard König and Anton Mangstl, Zentralstelle für Agrardokumentation und Information, Bonn, the use of an expert system to assist retrieval from agricultural databases; Ron Larson, U. of Maryland, overview of telecommunications issues; Howard McQueen, CD Consultants, CD-ROMs on LANs; Mary Miller, Virginia Tech, multimedia CD-ROM applications; Robert Oakley, Georgetown U. Law Center, copyright and new technology; Anne Okerson, Association of Research Libraries (ARL), electronic journals; Paul Evan Peters, ARL Coalition for Networked Information, networked information resources and services; Jan Mark Pohlmann, Technische Universität, München, problem solving strategies for agricultural expert systems; George Thoma, National Library of Medicine, FAX images on Internet; John Ulmschneider, North Carolina State U., image transmission project; Gary Vacin, U. of Nebraska, changes in technology and effects on

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future library operations; Guy Waksman, Association de Coordination Technique Agricole, Paris, development of expert systems in France; Pauline Zoelick, independent consultant, the CGIAR CD-ROM project; and others.

In addition to these presentations, the symposium will set aside one day for touring the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine; or for visiting the extensive exhibits at the Federal Computer Conference being held in Washington, D.C., that same week.

The registration fee for the symposium is \$490.00. This includes an opening night reception and three lunches. Information on hotel reservations and transportation will be provided to registrants. For registration forms, contact:

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The National Agricultural Library is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Hosts Library Student from Japan

Beltsville, MD — Takefumi Tanaka, a newly graduated Japanese library student, recently arrived in Beltsville, Maryland, to begin one year of study at the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

Tanaka hopes the experience he gains at NAL, the world's largest agricultural library, will help when he returns to Japan and seeks to work with his country's agricultural libraries.

"I want to know as much as I can about NAL and the job of agricultural libraries in the United States," Tanaka said.

The year of activities NAL has planned should help Tanaka do just that.

The staff at the library have developed a program in which Tanaka will work and be exposed to all aspects of NAL's operations: from collection development, to cataloging materials, to work with new information management technology. NAL also expects to make good use of Tanaka's experience and abilities.

"The visiting librarian program at NAL allows the library to gain specific expertise from individuals with many different backgrounds and from countries around the world," said Maria Pisa, NAL Assistant Director for Policy and Planning. "The individual, in turn, learns the operations of a major research library."

Tanaka has an undergraduate degree from Tokyo University of Agriculture and in March 1991 earned a master's degree from the University of Library and Information Science at Tsukuba Science City, Japan.

Speaking of his first impressions of the United States, Tanaka said he was surprised at the large role that computers and new information management technology like CD-ROMs and laser discs play in U.S. libraries.

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He also was amazed at how many Americans drive Japanese cars. He hopes “to have a ride in at least one American car” before he returns to Japan.

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Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

Carver Papers Help in Preservation Experiments at NAL

Beltsville, MD — George Washington Carver, the famed Afro-American scientist who spent a lifetime of discovery in agriculture, would no doubt be pleased that a collection of his papers has been selected by the National Agricultural Library (NAL) for an experiment in a relatively new science, electronic information distribution.

A microfilm collection of Carver's written materials from Tuskegee University is the focus of efforts by NAL to test the feasibility of converting microfilm to electronic page images that can be accessed by microcomputer. NAL is optically scanning Carver's papers, converting them to electronic images, and making the papers available on CD-ROM (compact disc—read only memory) for use by agricultural and research libraries worldwide. The libraries will evaluate the effectiveness of this system for making valuable scientific information more accessible.

This effort is part of NAL's ongoing investigation into using optical scanning techniques to preserve, while still making accessible, the nation's priceless agricultural knowledge. NAL is testing many new electronic information management technologies under the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project (NATDP).

According to Judi Zidar, NATDP Coordinator at NAL, the criteria set up in selecting material to be scanned in this phase of NATDP were that the material "must be informative and visually interesting, it must form a cohesive subject collection and it must be valuable in its own right."

"The Tuskegee University microfilm collection of the papers and letters of George Washington Carver more than fulfilled these criteria," Zidar said. "He is a major historical figure in agriculture who devoted himself to practical, hands-on agricultural research and education. The Tuskegee collection captures much of Carver's personality."

Tuskegee University has recorded Carver's papers, letters, records and drawings of seeds, plants and inventions on

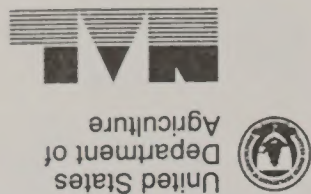
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67 reels of microfilm. With Tuskegee's permission, NAL is placing the contents of three of these microfilm reels on CD-ROM along with bibliographic information for accessing the material. The CD-ROM will also include the complete *Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the George Washington Carver Papers at Tuskegee Institute*.

The Carver CD-ROM is expected to be available for use and evaluation in December 1991.

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